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TO : Maj. Roy.
FROM : Mr. Arden *Arden*
SUBJECT : DURCANSKY Ferdinand Dr. -
Visit to Austria.

In his situation report # 13, dated 14 June 1952, O-3g reports among other the following information concerning the visit of Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY, former Minister of the Slovak State, who from 1945 until recently resided in Argentine. As known, DURCANSKY is the Chairman of "SOV" (Slovak Committee of Liberation), the right-wing, though anti-clerical organization of Slovak autonomists. Source : as given. - Evaluation : B-2. - Verbatim translation follows:

Dr. DURCANSKY in SALZBURG :

Dr. DURCANSKY came from Argentine to SALZBURG. His visit in LIEZ at the end of May 1952 was described in detail by the "Salzburger Nachrichten". On 4 June 1952 I received a telephone message asking me to come at 11.00 hours to the Cafe LOHR; that the "Minister" was there. The message was given to me by Antonin MALY whom I had previously asked to invite me when Dr. DURCANSKY would come to SALZBURG. Together with DURCANSKY at the Cafe LOHR were Anton MALY, "SOV" trustee for Germany and Austria, also representatives of Slovakian Germans, Josef FLIKINGER, chairman of the Landsmannschaft, secretary Gail Adolf, both residing in SALZBURG, one young Slovak of unknown name, and another Slovakian German, also unknown to me. This meeting was held for the purpose of informing Slovakian Germans of the attitude of Dr. DURCANSKY towards the solution of the "German problem" following the future return to Slovakia. The main theme of the Germans was the question of reparation for the lost economic position, the question of equality for Slovakian Germans; the question of cultural autonomy and political jurisdiction. Dr. DURCANSKY categorically supported

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the return of Germans to Slovakia. In the matter of reparation he used greater care, and gave approximately the following reply :

"This matter will have to be settled as economic conditions will allow, because we have to take into account the fact that we shall find the entire nation impoverished and that personal economic concessions would scarcely be practicable if justice is to be maintained."

DURCANSKY's standpoint in cultural matters pertaining to Slovakian Germans was favorable.

The talks continued at a lunch in STEIGLERAU (NOWAK).

DURCANSKY summed up the result of his present political activity into the following points :

"We have gained good positions in the clerical and military circles in the USA. The diplomatic and certain political circles of an atheist nature are still a little reserved, but even here we are penetrating, slowly but surely, and certain signs are already apparent, indicating a change of opinion, thus consolidating our relations, which could lead to the victory of our cause. The situation in England and France is similar. In Germany our position is firm. Our publications are winning for us one position after another. We shall not cease in this systematic work, it is our very effective weapon for winning recognition and supporters in the very circles which were up to now the domain of the Czechs. These succeeded in making Fascists and military criminals of us after the war. Gradually, however, our publications as well as our personal contact with politicians are unveiling the true face of the Czech politicians in exile, who are fully responsible for the present state of affairs at home. By means of these publications we have already penetrated to the highest places both in UNO, in the USA, in Great Britain, France and Germany. I cannot at present speak openly of the promises which have been made to me, but I can assure you that Slovakia will be independent, be it as a sovereign republic, or within the frame of some confederation (European). The setting up of independent Slovak military units is purely our concern. If we should want them, we shall have them. I am convinced that there will not be a single Slovak who would not want them. I would like to see the American general who would have the Slovaks fired on only because they want to fight under the Slovak flag, because they want freedom. The Americans are too democratic for that. It is therefore clear that it depends on us whether we shall have Slovak units within the frame of the European Army."

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DURCANSKY went on approximately as follows :

"The situation today is entirely different from the one in 1945. Today the Western Powers are considering the Slovakian question in a different light than at the time when they were biasedly and falsely informed by the Czechs. One example : It is a well-known fact that General DASTYCH was sent to Europe with the special task of knocking the ground from under my feet by making me a war criminal. In spite of this I found my way one and a half years ago to the American military authorities in Germany with no difficulty. I had myself announced to an American Colonel, and though it was almost 6 o'clock in the evening, he received me immediately. He looked at my visit card, then at me, and during the following three quarters of an hour he asked me about four times : You are Dr. Durcansky? Yes, I replied, surprised by the question. He could not get over the fact. He laughed heartily. They have painted you well here. A war criminal. And he laughed again. We spoke on the heartiest terms about the Slovak problems, about my plan for the future, and we parted almost two hours later on friendly terms."

According to a statement by Anton MALY, who accompanied DURCANSKY, the latter received an invitation to a University cathedral in Germany. Prior to this, he must however pay visits to London and Paris within the next few weeks, where he has been invited and where he will have talks with political circles. After these visits he will go to Bonn, to which he has likewise been invited, and he will then remain permanently in Germany. He is to visit Austria again at the beginning of July 1952.

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